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Egypt's Relationship with the Afro-Asian  
Peoples' Solidarity Organization

[redacted] Egyptian influence in the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) has been marginal since the assassination in 1978 of Yusuf al-Sibai, an Egyptian who was the organization's president and secretary general. AAPSO is now almost completely a Soviet show.

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After al-Sibai's death, the Egyptians were able to refill only the AAPSO presidency (in the person of the relatively weak Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharkawi), while the secretary generalship went to the pro-Soviet Iraqi communist Nuri Abd-Al-Razzaq Husayn. In addition, during the late 1970s the two Egyptian deputy secretaries general of the overall organization apparently became merely the deputy secretaries general of the Egyptian affiliate of AAPSO. By 1981 they had been replaced in their earlier positions by a Soviet and South Yemeni. We assume that the Soviet deputy secretary general is giving on-the-spot direction to the organization, a procedure which would be consistent with known Soviet control techniques in other international front organizations.

The presumption of near-total Soviet control of AAPSO also is supported by the time and attention the organization has spent backing the pro-Soviet regimes in Afghanistan and Kampuchea--a position hardly in line with Egypt's. We do not know the details, however, of how the Soviets were able to increase their control of AAPSO during and after 1978.

The Egyptians continue to supply the organization's headquarters building, clerical support, and a cash subsidy of an unknown amount. Their apparent purpose in doing this despite Soviet control of AAPSO is to monitor the organization's activities.

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